

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are being prosecuted herein, of which claims 1 and 3 have been amended. Claim 3 was indicated as allowable and only clarifying amendments are made herein.

Claim 1, the only rejected independent claim, is to a production method for a solid electrolytic capacitor which includes a capacitor element with an anode coated with a dielectric oxide film, and an electrically conductive polymer layer provided therein. The method includes the steps of mixing a metal salt of an alkoxybenzenesulfonic acid as an oxidizing agent, with an electrically conductive polymer in a solvent, and immersing the capacitor element in the resulting mixture solution, and forming the electrically conductive polymer layer in the capacitor element by thermal polymerization

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 2 are rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C.(b) by Nitta et al. (JP 2002-324733). The Office Action alleges that Nitta shows a production method for a solid electrolytic capacitor that has a capacitor element (10) including an anode (1) coated with a dielectric oxide film (9) and an electrically conductive polymer layer provided therein. The method comprises mixing at least one member selected from a metal salt of an alkoxybenzenesulfonic acid and a metal salt of an alkylsulfonic acid as an oxidizing agent with an electrically conductive polymer in a solvent and immersing the capacitor element in the resulting mixture solution and forming the electrically conductive polymer layer in the capacitor element by thermal polymerization. The metal for the metal salt can be a transition metal selected from the group consisting of iron (III), copper, chromium, cerium, manganese and zinc.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/541,873**
Reply to OA dated May 25, 2007

Reconsideration and removal of the rejection is respectfully requested in view of the present amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

Column [0026] of Nitta, a translation of which is attached, discloses that a metal salt of an alkysulfonic acid is used as an oxidizing agent with an electrically conductive polymer in a solvent. However, Nitta fails to disclose or suggest that a metal salt of alkoxybenzenesulfonic acid is used as an oxidizing gent with an electrically conductive polymer in a solvent, as specified in the present claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to specify the use of a metal salt of an alkoxybenzenesulfonic acid. In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1 and 2, as amended, in addition to claim 3 are believed to be patentable and in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

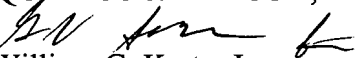
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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